

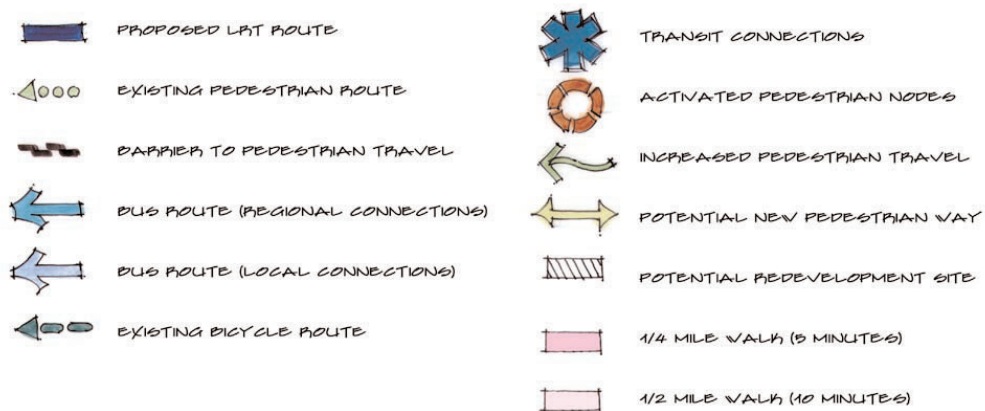
4.2 Site Analysis: Cedar-Riverside Station

The key challenge of the Cedar-Riverside station rests in its location within the middle of a block, nearly 1,000 feet – and virtually invisible – from Cedar Avenue. While the majority of the buildings on the block are currently occupied, none are oriented toward the station location in the middle of the block and few generate the level of activity supportive of a transit station. The corner of the block somewhat visible from Cedar Avenue (at 6th Street and 15th Avenue) is occupied by a surface parking lot and does not provide a landmark to assist in wayfinding to the station. (See Figure 4.2.)

Sixth Street provides the primary pedestrian path to the station area, although it angles away from the station as it proceeds west from Cedar Avenue, requiring transit users to access the station platform from the 15th and 16th Avenue cross streets. These streets are quite comfortable for the pedestrian, narrow in scale and tree-lined. However, residents of the area report that they are poorly maintained in the winter and often littered with garbage. The six-foot sidewalks are somewhat narrow for anticipated volumes of pedestrian traffic. The preferred width for sidewalks on 6th Street is 8 feet.

Large residential developments lie to the north and south of 6th Street limiting other pedestrian access to the station. North of 6th Street, pedestrians can access the station by proceeding northwest on Riverside Avenue, then southwest on 16th Avenue. The Cedars Towers and I-94 block additional access from south of 6th Street. Public pedestrian pathways exist through the Riverside Plaza complex, but the paths require accessing a variety of levels within the interconnected plazas using ramps and stairways. The paths are confusing and not well marked.

Due to these access limitations, the station location is situated so that Cedar Avenue businesses are just within the range of a five-minute walk; however, areas east of Cedar Avenue fall beyond the five-minute range (as shown in Figure 4.2). The ten-minute walk area includes the boundaries of the University of Minnesota and Augsburg College campuses. Pedestrian access west, south and north of the station is limited by I-35W, I-94 and Washington Avenue (depressed), respectively. Cedar Avenue provides the only opportunity for proceeding north and south beyond ½ mile of the station. Due to these constraints, the pedestrian shed for this area is significantly limited within the ½ mile radius of the station and conditions emphasize the importance of Cedar Avenue as the principal corridor for access.



The Hiawatha Trail following the LRT rail lines through the TOD area provides pedestrian and bicycle access to downtown Minneapolis, through the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood and designations to the south. One existing designated on-street bicycle route runs along 20th Avenue connecting to the University of Minnesota. A signed bike route connects 20th Avenue along 6th Street to the station area and the Hiawatha Trail.

Regional access to the Cedar-Riverside station area is provided by Interstate Highways 94 and 35W. Interstate 35W can be accessed via Washington Avenue north of the station area. Eastbound I-94 can be accessed from Cedar Avenue just south of the station area. Indirect access to I-94 westbound can be obtained south of Franklin Avenue via the Cedar Avenue ramp to TH 55. Washington Avenue serves the Cedar-Riverside area as an arterial connecting downtown Minneapolis and University of Minnesota campus. Riverside Avenue makes connections to both the University of Minnesota and Augsburg College campuses, and to regional hospital complexes. Cedar and Riverside Avenues are arterial streets serving the TOD area. Cedar Avenue is the primary commercial corridor, while Riverside Avenue supports secondary commercial activity.

The Cedar-Riverside area is served by bus service along Cedar and Riverside Avenues. The Route 19 connection with the Cedar-Riverside station will occur at the corner of 6th Street and Cedar Avenue. Buses will not directly access the LRT station. Route 2 connections can be made at Riverside Avenue. Broader local connections can be made via a connection to University Avenue from Cedar Avenue. Presently, Route 19 runs approximately every 10-20 minutes during the week, and every 30-60 minutes on the weekends. Route 2 currently runs every 20 minutes during peak weekday times, every 30 minutes during non-peak times, and every 30-60 minutes on weekends.